guidance and control, and the necessity of having a recognized arbiter in households which may include the wives and children of several sons, mothers-in-law can be tyrannical and make bitter the lot of their daughters-in-law.

According to the age-old standards, a husband may divorce his wife for certain specific causes—failure to bear him a male heir, neglect of his parents, a shrewish tongue, theft, jealousy, an incurable disease, and adultery. But restrictions placed by law made divorce, in practice, very rare. A wife could not divorce her husband, and divorce by her husband has been regarded as a deep disgrace. In case she has living blood relatives with considerable influence they may prevent a divorce—perhaps often more from the fear of loss of "face" or of having to support her than from affection. The divorced husband may remarry, but the divorced wife seldom if ever can do so. Both widows and widowers may remarry,^but it has been considered a virtue for a widow not to do so. Then, too, a widow with sons occupies in the household a position of especial importance and usually is not tempted to sacrifice it, except because of poverty, by venturing again upon matrimony.

A man can have only one legal wife. Until recently, however, he might take as many concubines as he wished and could afford. While the new codes forbid concubinage without the wife's consent, they are not yet universally enforced. Concubinage has been and is, therefore, frequent among the well-to-do. It seems to have been most common in the families of merchants—at least in some localities. On occasion officials have been dismissed for concubinage. One of two motives has usually been responsible for the acquisition of a concubine: a man may

take one in case his wife has failed to bear him a son or in case his wife's sons have died, or, his marriage having been a matter of family convenience and having failed to result in binding love, he may acquire concubines because of their personal attractiveness. Sometimes a husband has taken one or more of his wife's sisters as coneiib&e. As a rule, however, concubines have been from families socially and economically inferior to that of the wife. Many have been prostitutes and in that capacity have first attracted the attention of their future spouse. Sometimes a concubine may be held largely as a servant. To prevent the coming of a rival a wife